



Pair tied to escape have rap sheets

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The two San Antonio residents accused of helping prison escapees flee Frio County have lengthy criminal histories, but federal authorities declined Thursday to say how the suspects became connected to the fugitives.

The U.S. Marshals Service arrested Debra Ayala, 44, and Randy Folsom, 42, this week on charges of aiding and abetting. Ayala was arrested Wednesday without incident inside her North San Antonio home. Folsom already was in custody on unrelated charges.

Both Ayala and Folsom are being held without bond.

Public records show Ayala has been arrested several times and convicted on theft and drug-related charges. Folsom has three driving-while-intoxicated charges on his record, among other lesser offenses.

Despite the pair's criminal histories, federal authorities said they haven't found any evidence to show the two suspects met the fugitives in jail.

"They ran in different worlds," U.S. Deputy Marshal Timothy Hughes said. "I don't see how."

Hughes said investigators also have ruled out any romantic link between the fugitives and Ayala before the escape.

He said both suspects were being questioned Thursday.

Officials were optimistic more arrests would be made.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg of an ongoing investigation," said U.S. Marshal Lafayette Collins of the Western District of Texas.

At least one person — Robert Lee Jack, 32, of San Antonio — is wanted in connection with the escape, authorities said.

Jack also has a criminal history and is currently awaiting trial on a possession of body armor by a felon charge.

Rewards of \$10,000 apiece continue to be offered for information leading to the recapture of four of the fugitives. They have been identified as Jorge Arturo Castaneda Silva, 23; Luis Angel Garcia Esparza, 23; Victor Hugo Nava Franco, 28; and Reymundo Alaniz Flores, 46.

The other escapee, 33-year-old Manuel de la Fuente, surrendered to authorities at his father's house in Laredo on Aug. 16.

De la Fuente told investigators he and the other fugitives jumped into two cars waiting for them outside Frio County Jail in Pearsall after cutting through two perimeter fences.

Folsom is accused of driving one of the getaway vehicles. Ayala is accused of harboring de la Fuente and three of the other fugitives at her house in the 200 block of Trudell Drive.

The television show "America's Most Wanted" has filmed footage in San Antonio and is planning on airing a segment on the escape. No air date has been given.

U.S. Marshals have set up a 24-hour, toll-free line, (866) 550-1717 for tips on the men's whereabouts.

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